Infection Prevention & Control Team
THE ADELAIDE & MEATH HOSPITAL, DUBLIN
INCORPORATING THE NATIONAL CHILDRENS HOSPITAL

Instructions for Visitors

Visitors may need to wear a mask before entering the patient room. Please check at the nurses station before visiting.

Visitors who are unwell, pregnant or under the age of 12 years should not visit while you are infectious.

Why do I need to take TB medicine regularly?

TB bacteria die very slowly. It takes at least 6 months for the medicine to kill all the bacteria. You will probably start to feel better after only a few weeks on treatment but remember, the TB bacteria are still alive in your body. You must continue to take your medicine until your doctor tells you otherwise. Attend all your out-patient appointments.

Public Health

A member of the Public Health Team may contact you or your family for a list of people you have been in contact with. TB is a notifiable disease which means that the local department of public health must be informed of all persons infected.

How can I contact a member of the Infection Prevention & Control Team?

Tell the Clinical Nurse Manager or nurse looking after you if you would like to speak to a member of the Infection Prevention and Control Team and they will contact us.

The Infection Prevention and Control Nurses are available Monday to Friday 07.30am to 04.00pm.
We are located in the Microbiology Department in the Laboratory on Level one.
Telephone no.: 01 - 4143938

We have made every possible effort to make sure that all the information provided in this leaflet is true, accurate, complete and up to date at the time of publication.

January 2012

Reference : HPSC (Health Protection Surveillance Centre)
Information For Patients with TB

What is TB?

TB stands for Tuberculosis. It is caused by a bacterium (germ) called Mycobacterium tuberculosis. TB usually affects the lungs but can affect other parts of the body too such as the kidney, spine, and brain.

TB disease is preventable and curable.

What are the symptoms of active TB disease?

The symptoms may include:
- A bad cough that lasts 3 weeks or longer
- Coughing up blood or sputum (phlegm)
- Weakness or fatigue (tiredness)
- Weight loss
- No appetite
- Chills, fever and sweating at night

How is TB spread?

The TB germ is usually spread in the air when a person with active TB disease of the lungs or throat coughs or sneezes. People nearby may breathe in the germ and become infected.

When a person breathes in TB, the germ may settle in the lungs and begin to grow. It is possible, even many years after infection that TB germs may become active and TB disease may re-occur.

TB in the lungs or throat can be infectious (can spread to other people). TB in other parts of the body is not usually easily spread.

People with active TB disease are most likely to spread the germ to people they spend time with every day such as family members, friends and co-workers.

What can I do to prevent the spread of TB while in hospital?

If you or your family have been in contact with someone with TB or if you have a history of TB please let the Nurse of Doctor know when you are being admitted.

If you are diagnosed with, or suspected to have an active TB infection you will be Placed in a single room with en-suite toilet facilities with the door kept closed.

It is very important to cover your nose and mouth with disposable tissues when coughing or sneezing. Dispose of these items immediately into the yellow bin in your room and wash your hands or use alcohol hand gel.

If you have to go to another department for treatment such as x-ray or theatre you must wear a mask before leaving your room.

To prevent spread of the germ to other people, it is not advisable for you to visit other patients on the ward, use the communal washing facilities or visit the public areas in the hospital.

Any healthcare staff entering your room will be wearing a mask. A red coloured sign will be placed on the outside of your room door reminding staff and visitors to wear a mask.

How is active TB treated?

Your doctor will prescribe several different medicines. The medicine must be taken as your doctor or nurse tells you.

Ask your Ward Pharmacist/Doctor about possible side effects, interaction with other medicines and how to get your medicines when you leave hospital.

You may need to stay at home from school or work so that you don’t spread TB to other people as advised by your Doctor. After taking your medicine for a few weeks, you should start to feel better and may no longer be infectious to others.